

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-18 and 20 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1-7 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer pursuant to the Examiner's restriction requirement. Claim 20 is new.

Specification Objection

The Examiner's objection to the specification, and specifically the Abstract, is noted. A replacement Abstract is being filed herewith to obviate those objections.

Drawings Objection

The Examiner's objection to the drawings is noted. A replacement set of drawings is filed herewith to obviate those objections.

As to the T-shape of element 65, this can be plainly seen in Fig. 6, and an additional reference number has been added for clarity.

Prior Art Rejection

Independent claim 13 stands rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,294,068 to Baro in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,494,204 to Wang and U.S. Patent No. 2,352,445 to Pinckney. In view of the amendments made to claim 13, and the distinguishing remarks below, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

The invention of claim 13 is specifically directed to a modular approach of making different types of dispensers. Specifically, claim 13 is directed to a modular approach where a plurality of housings having essentially identical constructions are used for making a number of dispensers with a first type of supply substrate and for making a number of dispensers with a second type of supply substrate. The first type of supply substrate has a release liner with relatively thin articles adhered thereto, and the second type of supply substrate is relatively thicker than the first type of supply substrate.

A particular arrangement of openings is provided for accommodating dispensing of these two different supply substrates from devices made using the same housing. This particular arrangement allows the same housing to be used in a modular fashion with each of the two different supply substrates. Specifically, the housing has a first opening and a second

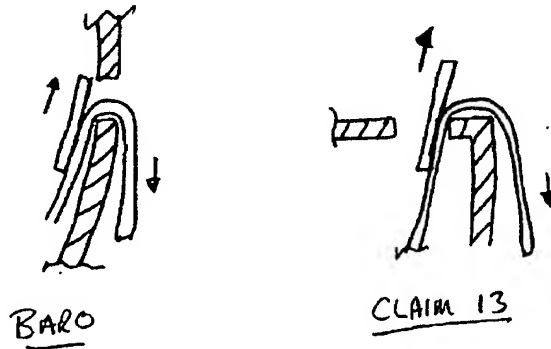
opening. The first and second supply substrates are defined as having a smaller thickness than the first and second openings, respectively. The first opening is located immediately adjacent a corner defined by first and second walls intersecting at an angle. This positioning of the first opening is important, as it allows the first supply substrate to be bent over the corner for de-laminating the relatively thin articles therefrom.

In this modular approach, a number of rolls of the first supply substrate are provided, and a number of rolls of the second supply substrate are provided. The rolls of the first type of substrate are mounted to a first corresponding number of the housings. And the rolls of the second type of substrate are mounted to a second corresponding number of housings.

With the second supply substrates, their lead end portions can be extended outwardly through the second openings of their housings. With the first supply substrates, their lead end portions are extended within their housings generally parallel to the second wall thereof (*i.e.*, of the first and second walls forming the corner). The lead end portions then extend outwardly from the first openings. This enables the lead end portions to be bent over the corners of the housings for de-laminating the relatively thin articles. Specifically, by having the lead end portions extend generally parallel¹ to the second wall, the first supply substrate can extend out from the opening on the first wall and be bent sharply over the corner back along the second wall as shown in Fig. 10 to de-laminate the relatively thin articles.

The Examiner relies on Baro as the base reference for teaching the configuration of the housing. However, Baro does not teach all the limitations of the claimed housing. The Examiner relies on opening 34 as being the claimed first opening, and on opening 36 as being the claimed second opening. However, opening 34 is not “immediately adjacent” a “corner defined by first and second walls intersecting at an angle.” Instead, opening 34 is formed in the middle of an otherwise continuous single wall – there simply are no first and second walls that intersect at an angle to define a corner in the area immediately adjacent the first opening. With the claimed construction, by providing this corner with the opening on the first wall and extending the liner generally parallel to the second wall, the thin articles adhered to the liner will de-laminate and present themselves through the first opening for easy removal as they are bent over the corner. However, with the construction of Baro, if the liner is extended generally parallel to a wall and bent back down along the wall, then the thin article is likely to delaminate inside the housing. This is a direct result of the opening being provided in a single continuous wall, and not at a corner defined by two walls intersecting at an angle as

claimed.² Side by side sketches of these differences are provided below to illustrate this distinction.



To more clearly emphasize the distinctions of claim 13 over the prior art, the features discussed above have been added to the claim. Specifically, the “corner” is “defined by first and second walls intersecting an angle,” and the “first opening [is] provided immediately adjacent the corner.” The “first type of supply substrate” has been defined as being “thinner than the first opening” to emphasize that it is capable of being fed through the first opening. Also, the mounting act associated with the rolls of the first supply substrate now recites:

mounting the wound rolls of the first type of supply substrate to a first corresponding number of the housings and extending an unwound lead end portion of each first type of supply substrate within each of the first corresponding number of housings generally parallel to the second wall thereof and then outwardly through the first opening of each of the first corresponding number of housings, thereby enabling the lead end portions to be bent over the corners of the housings for delaminating the relatively thin articles through the first openings;

This distinction is reflected above in the sketches comparing Baro to the claimed invention.

Neither Wang nor Pinckney make up for this deficiency in Baro. The Examiner relies on Wang as showing a plurality of housings. However, it does not suggest the modular

¹ “Generally parallel” here means in any general path that may be regarded as somewhat following the second wall, and not necessarily truly parallel or parallel along its entire length. This can be seen in Fig. 10.

² Even if the Examiner took the overly broad approach of arguing that in a theoretical sense the single wall of Baro could be segmented as two walls by drawing some arbitrary imaginary line, such imaginary walls would be abutting each other end to end and would not intersect at an angle.

approach recited in claim 13. The Examiner relies on Pinckney as teaching different types of supplies. However, in Pinckney these supplies are mounted to a single device – there is no need for the modular approach used in claim 13. Thus, neither of these references would suggest the invention of claim 13.

Accordingly, claim 13 is submitted to be patentable over the applied art and the Examiner is requested to withdraw the outstanding obviousness rejection.

Claims 14-19 and 20 depend from claim 13. These dependent claims are submitted to be patentable based on their dependency from claim 13, and also for the reason that they recite additional patentable features.

Conclusion


All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions or suggestions for facilitating the prosecution of this application, she is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 1-11. These sheets replace the original sheets showing Figures 1-11.